

Definitions

Antigenic Shift: Process by which two (2) strains of the influenza A virus exchange genetic material to form a subtype having a mixture of surface antigens of the parent viruses.

Antigenic Drift: Naturally occurring genetic mutations of influenza that affect antigenic surface protein expression. Antigenic drift occurs in all types of influenza including influenza A, B and C.

Antivirals: Drugs developed for the treatment of patients suffering from viral infections including the influenza virus. This class of drugs includes zanamivir (Relenza) and oseltamivir (Tamiflu), neuroaminidase inhibitors that have shown the ability to reduce flu-like symptoms in some infected patients. Effectiveness of these drugs depends on the strain of the infecting virus and the start of treatment as related to the onset of symptoms.

Avian Influenza: All known avian flu viruses belong to the species of virus called influenza A virus. All subtypes of influenza A virus are adapted to birds, which is why for many purposes avian flu virus *is* the influenza A virus

Daily List: Group made up of the Director and Deputy Director of Department of Health and Senior Services, Director of Division of Community and Public Health, Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism, State Public Health Laboratory, Division of Regulation and Licensure, Division of Senior and Disability Services, and Center for Local Public Health Services, Administrator of Section for Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology, Chief of the Office of Public Information, Chief of the Office of Emergency Coordination, Bureau of Immunization Assessment and Assurance and Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention, Office of General Counsel, Medical Advisors and State Epidemiologist. This is the group of key decision makers with resource allocation authority with Department of Health and Senior Services.

H5N1: Type of avian flu which only very rarely affects humans. It is an influenza A virus subtype that occurs mainly in birds, is highly contagious among birds, and can be deadly to them.

Health Alert: Notices provided by government and/or health-related organizations concerning relevant information related to the health and safety of the public. These may include notices of travel restrictions, information concerning sites of novel outbreaks around the world, notification of World Health Organization phase shifts etc.

Isolation: Isolation is the separation for the period of communicability of infected individuals and animals from other individuals and animals, in places and under conditions as will prevent the direct or indirect transmission of the infectious agent from infected individuals or animals to other individuals or animals who are susceptible or who may spread the agent to others. Isolation may be voluntary or enforced.

LRN Laboratories: The Laboratory Response Network (LRN) and its partner laboratories, including the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory, maintain an integrated national and international network of laboratories that are fully equipped to respond quickly to emerging infectious diseases and other public health threats and emergencies through state of the art diagnostic techniques.

National Vaccine Program Office: The National Vaccine Program Office has responsibility for coordinating and ensuring collaboration among the many federal agencies involved in vaccine and immunization activities. The National Vaccine Program Office provides leadership and coordination among federal agencies, as they work together to carry out the goals of the National Vaccine Plan.

Novel Influenza Virus: Virus that has never been reported in the past as to cause human illness and therefore will result in the lack of available vaccine development and inherent immune resistance. May result from genetic change of virus currently known to effect humans and/or genetic transfer between viruses to confer infectivity.

Pandemic Influenza: A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. A flu pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges for which people have little or no immunity, and for which there is no vaccine. The disease spreads easily person-to-person, causes serious illness, and can sweep across the country and around the world in very short time.

Phase Shift: Declaration of transition between World Health Organization phases made by the Director-General of World Health Organization. Each phase of alert coincides with a series of recommended activities to be undertaken by World Health Organization and Department of Health and Senior Services. Changes from one phase to another are triggered by several factors, which include the epidemiological behavior of the disease and the characteristics of circulating viruses.

Public Health Emergency: Emergency health threats, including pandemic influenza, that require exercise of essential government functions to ensure the safety of their residents. By declaring an emergency, officials are enabled to enact plans that have been designed to best serve their people while acknowledging the threat of this event requires the attention of various state organizations.

Points of Dispensing: Predefined sites used for dispensing critical supplies to hospitals and people. These items might include those maintained as part of the Strategic National Stockpile or vaccine distribution.

Priority Groups: Those groups identified to be in the greatest need of a service, such as vaccination or antiviral treatment, in the event of a pandemic influenza outbreak.

Providers: Those individuals providing services directly to the community. Examples include physicians, nurses, local business people, etc.

Quarantine: Quarantine is a period of detention for persons or animals that may have been exposed to a reportable disease. The period of time will not be longer than the longest period of communicability of the disease. The purpose of quarantine is to prevent effective contact with the general population. Quarantine may be voluntary or enforced.

Sentinel Physician Surveillance: Enhanced passive surveillance with physicians as the reporting entity.

- Surveillance, active - surveillance initiated by a health department
- Surveillance, enhanced passive - surveillance initiated by the source of data, often a health care provider or clinical laboratory rather than a health department
- Surveillance, sentinel - to identify the initial introduction of a disease as soon as possible to prevent an extensive and sustained outbreak.

Sentinel Providers: Missouri physicians of any specialty that report the total number of patient visits each week and number of patient visits for influenza-like illness by age group (0-4 years, 5-24 years, 25-64 years, ≥ 65 years). These data are transmitted once a week to a central data repository at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for monitoring. Specimens can also be sent directly to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for analysis.

State Program Managers: Individuals responsible for unique components of the state pandemic influenza plan. These leaders are entrusted to oversee the development and implementation, as needed, of the pandemic influenza response plan.

Strain Typing: Laboratory analysis of isolates collected from infected individuals to determine the subtype of influenza virus responsible for the infection and resulting illness.

Strategic National Stockpile: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Strategic National Stockpile has large quantities of medicine and medical supplies to protect the American public if there is a public health emergency severe enough to cause local supplies to run out. Once federal and local authorities agree that the Strategic National Stockpile is needed, medicines will be delivered to any state in the U.S. within 12 hours.

Surveillance: The ongoing systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of outcome-specific data essential to the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health practice, closely integrated with the timely dissemination of these data to those who need to know. Epidemiologic activities would include identification, evaluation, and monitoring of cases and contacts.